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HEADQUARTERS
THEATER SERVICE FORCES
EUROPEAN THEATER
Office of the Theater Chief Surgeon
(Rear)-APO 887

Ch Surg 370.05

22 August 1945.

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 64

Policy on Evacuation to the Zone of Interior

1. Zone of Interior evacuation policy is not consistent with the present Theater 120-day evacuation policy announced as of 23 July 1945, EX 71640. No patient should be returned to the Zone of Interior if he can be treated in this Theater and returned to duty within 120 days. In complying with the 120-day evacuation policy, the following general rules will pertain, and any former policy in conflict is hereby superseded.

a. Elective surgery of any type may and should be completed in this Theater if such surgery will result in return to duty within 120 days, and the risk of such surgery is not excessively high.

b. Elective surgery requiring the services of highly qualified specialists (neurosurgery, thoracic surgery, ophthalmologic surgery, orthopedic surgery and so forth) will be done only by specialists so certified by the Office of the Theater Chief Surgeon. When such specialists are not locally available their services may be obtained by contacting army and base section consultants or, finally, by contacting the Chief of Professional Services Division, Office of the Theater Chief Surgeon, Hq TSFET (Rear), APO 887.

c. Emergency and elective surgery must be instituted in all instances where delay may jeopardize life or produce unnecessary morbidity.

d. Surgery of any type must conform to accepted standards of previously issued directives. Experimentation with new or unproven methods will not be permitted.

2. Any medical or surgical condition likely to recur, even with effective treatment in this Theater, and chronic illnesses of any nature, not subject to cure and rehabilitation within the limits of the evacuation policy, should be evacuated to the Zone of Interior.

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3. Attention is particularly directed to the high number of patients being evacuated to the Zone of Interior with a diagnosis of some type of psychoneurosis. These patients should be particularly well screened and only those which will result in non-effectiveness evacuated. It is emphasized again that pure non-effectives who are not either ill or injured should be processed administratively rather than through medical channels. Reference is made again to Section II, Circular 82, Hq ETOUSA, "Diagnosis and Disposition of Neuropsychiatric Conditions", 16 June 1945. The intent of this circular should be strictly complied with.

4. The purpose of this circular letter is to maintain the highest standard of medical and surgical care consistent with the 120-day evacuation policy with a view to return to duty of the maximum of cases.

By order of the Theater Chief Surgeon:

Daniel J. Waligora
DANIEL J. WALIGORA,
Colonel, Medical Corps,
Executive Officer.

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